

December 2018

# The Month Ahead

## At Innova

Grade 6

Mrs. Adele McLaughlin

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Adele first encountered classical education through reading Susan Wise Bauer's book *The Well-Trained Mind*. While home educating her three children, she quickly adopted the classical method and her enthusiasm increased as she saw the fruit of the methodology in her children's progress. As one of the founding families of Innova Academy, Adele is thrilled to see the vision of a classical, Christian school become a reality. She currently serves as teaching vice principal, teaching Grades 5 and 6 at Innova. Besides home educating, Adele has taught Grades 5 and 6, Kindergarten to Grade 8 music, and worked as a special education resource and enrichment teacher in both public and private schools.



Adele McLaughlin  
Teaching Vice  
Principal

Grade 5 and  
Grade 6

Grade 6 students have opportunities to show marked maturity academically and spiritually as they learn to make meaningful connections and critically analyze ideas. Teachers continue to foster the love of learning, and lead students to deepen their understanding of God's purpose for His creation and their role in His redemptive plan.

**Christian Education:** In December, students will continue to deepen their understanding of the life and message of Christ through their study of the Gospels. In addition, we are reading the book *Jotham's Journey: A Storybook for Advent* by Arnold Ytreeide together as a class. Through the story and class reflections, students will gain a better understanding of the culture and events surrounding the birth of Christ. Students will:

- Study the life of Christ through the eyes of Luke by studying his gospel
- Reflect on the true meaning of Christmas
- Memorize 1 John 2:27 – 3:6

**Literature and Writing:** Students will continue to read, discuss, and write about the historical novel, *Juan de Pareja*, the story of an African slave living in Spain in the early seventeenth century. Using the *Writing and Rhetoric* program, students will be introduced to the commonplace essay. Topics and skills focused on this month include:

- Defining a commonplace essay
- Understanding pathos
- Engaging in reflection and argumentation
- Orally narrating a passage
- Developing elocution skills
- Writing an outline of a passage
- Adding synonyms and antonyms to build copiousness and make writing more powerful
- Analyzing a picture and writing about it
- Identifying and creating thesis statements
- Proofreading and revising passages

**Spelling:** Using the *Spell to Write and Read* program, students develop spelling skills through word analysis and applying spelling rules to daily writing across the curriculum. This month, students will:

- Analyze weekly spelling words drawn from the class list and student writing
- Write well-constructed sentences to practice grammar skills and illustrate the meaning of weekly spelling words

**Grammar:** Grammar study develops students' awareness and understanding of how the English language is structured. As students work through the grammar program, they apply their knowledge to writing in all subject areas. This month's Grammar study focuses on:

- Comma rules
- Correcting fragments and run-on sentences
- Diagramming compound subjects and verbs
- Diagramming compound adjectives and adverbs

**Latin and Greek Vocabulary:** Students will strengthen their vocabulary through the study of Latin and Greek. Students develop the ability to analyze unfamiliar English words based on Latin and Greek prefixes, suffixes, and roots. Students will:

- Learn English derivatives related to the Latin word *circ/circum* (around)
- Learn English derivatives related to the Greek words *cycle* (circle) and *centr/center* (middle)

## Grade 6 – The Logic Stage

The strong knowledge base established in the grammar school provides a solid foundation as students enter the logic school. As perspective widens, students start to make meaningful connections across the curriculum. Students show more independence in their learning and establish systems in self-regulation and personal study skills. Shaping students' habits of heart, mind, and soul is a key focus as students deepen their understanding of God's purpose for his creation and their role in his redemptive plan. Teachers continue to foster the love of learning, and students have opportunities to show marked maturity academically and spiritually as they learn to critically analyze ideas and speak to issues in light of God's purposes.

**French:** This month, students will explore the use of past, present, and future tense. Students will practice using singular and plural verbs in conversation and writing. Students will:

- Continue to work towards speaking exclusively in French
- Work towards memorizing the play *Boucles Violettes*
- Complete memorization of the third of ten gospel statements
- Answer questions about the play orally and in writing

**History/Geography:** This year, students are studying world history spanning 1500 to 1800. Topics discussed this month include:

- Review of early explorers
- Reasons for exploration
- The life of a sailor
- The impact of exploration on native populations
- The French in the New World (Cabot, Cartier, Champlain, Hudson)
- King James and his enemies

**Mathematics:** This month, students will extend their knowledge of fractions and ratios covered in November to study the concept of "rate". Towards the later part of December, the Grade 6 class will begin an extensive mathematics unit on "percent". They will:

- Use the unitary method and bar models to find rates and unit rates
- Apply these methods to real-world problem solving
- Understand the relationships between equivalent fractions, decimals, and percent

**Science:** This month, students will investigate motion, force, and work. They will explore the following questions:

- What is motion?
- What are the laws of motion?
- What is force?
- How do machines make work easier?
- What are simple machines?

**Visual Arts:** This month, students will learn about the themes and motifs of the Northern Renaissance. Students will examine the work of Albrecht Dürer and learn about printmaking techniques. Students will:

- Examine the art of the Northern Renaissance
- Learn about the history of printmaking and printmaking techniques
- Plan and carve linoleum blocks for a printmaking project

**Music:** Innova students are very busy preparing for our annual Christmas concert. Over the next weeks, music classes will mostly consist of:

- Polishing pieces for the Christmas performance
- Working together as an ensemble

**Physical Education:** This month, students will continue to develop their basketball skills. They will focus on improving their overall performance in the following areas:

- Teamwork
- Defensive and offensive plays
- Jump shots
- Setting up plays

*Please note that although students in different grades often study the same topic, curricular expectations are tailored to individual grade levels.*

## Upcoming Events

December 4 & 18– Prayer Meeting – Room A at 8:30 a.m. – Parents Welcome  
December 4, 11, 18 – Lunch Lady Lunch  
December 6 – Pizza Lunch  
December 7 – AGO Field Trip – Gr. 5-9  
December 14 – Special Lunch Lady Lunch  
December 16 – Grade 7/8 Performance at Cedarview  
December 19 – AMICA Christmas Performance  
December 20 – Christmas Concert – Main Sanctuary  
December 21 – Last Day of Classes Before Christmas Break – Noon Dismissal  
December 29 – Christmas Social - NTR  
December 24-January 4 – Christmas Break

Innova Academy aspires to graduate young men and women who will possess the virtues, wisdom, knowledge, and skills necessary for further academic study.